

MERION CLUB CENTER OF GOLF THIS WEEK

*Best Amateurs in East Will Compete in Medal
Play Tournament and Lesley Cup Matches
Starting Tomorrow and Ending Saturday*

BY PERRY LEWIS

THE apex of the local golf season will be reached the latter part of this week. Tomorrow on the links of the Merion Cricket Club, a field of golfers including the best players in the East will swing into action. Before the day is done they will have played 36 holes. Thursday they will bring their total to 72 holes, and the 1920 Merion medal play tournament will then be of the past.

And that's only the half of it! On Friday and Saturday, thirty picked golfers of Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania, will cross clubs in the classic twosomes and foursomes for the Lesley Cup. It would take a man with the imagination of a Verne equipped with a dream needle to conjure up a more elaborate links jubilee than this.

Although Philadelphia failed to snatch one of the three big national events this season, local enthusiasts have as much license to kick as an angle worm. Last week Harry Vardon, Ted Ray and "Chick" Evans were seen in competition on links here. During the next four days we will see in action, among others, Francis Ouimet, Jerome Travers, F. C. Newton, Jesse Sweetser, Ned Sawyer, Dave Herron, W. C. Fownes, Jr., Larry Paton and Jess Guilford, to say nothing of a group of five local cracks, including J. Wood Platt, Max Marston and George W. Hoffner.

MASSACHUSETTS TEAM LOOKS STRONG

The Pennsylvania team won the tristate trophy last year on the National links, but whether the Keystone-staters will be able to hold it over this year is a matter of another complexion. On paper the New York aggregation does not look much stronger than the one which was beaten last season. The Massachusetts team, however, is much more powerful than the 1919 combination.

Last year, for instance, Ouimet was unable to represent Boston because of the state of his health, and with the great Bostonian out of it, the New England team was all shot to pieces. True, it numbered some very fine golfers, but they were not playing as a unit, and emphatically they did not contribute winning golf. The Pennsylvania outfit will be very similar to the one which won the cup last year—mayhap a little stronger.

LARRY PATON—LITERARY AND ATHLETIC

The devotees who make Merion their Mecca during the four-day period starting tomorrow will see in action the only honest-to-goodness critic of the game who plays "major league" golf. We refer to Larry Paton, a Boston scribe of literary attainments, who performs so well on the links that he has won national recognition. Larry handles his clubs as well as he does his typewriter, and in consequence entered the select circle of Lesley Cup players some time ago.

When we record the fact that Paton stands alone, we do not aim to rap Grantland Rice or any of the other Boswells who do more than merely play at the game. But there is only one Paton, and the spectacle of Larry doing a dash from the eighteenth or possibly nineteenth green to the "wire," or vice versa, would energize an Egyptian mummy.

ALL EYES TO TURN TOWARD MAYFIELD

The big show at Merion being concluded, all eyes will turn to the West, to focus on the Mayfield links at Cleveland, where the women enter their National Championship on Monday. Philadelphia has ever been vitally interested in the women's title event for the reason that this city furnishes entries year after year who figure prominently in the late rounds. This season promises to be no exception.

Of the 32 who will qualify, it is probable that seven or more will be of Philadelphia. Furthermore, although Miss Alexa Stirling is generally picked to successfully defend her title, it is conceded that among her most dangerous rivals will be Mrs. Clarence H. Vanderbeck, Miss Mildred Caverly and Mrs. Ronald H. Barlow. If any further evidence be needed it may be recorded that one of the hardest women in the world for Miss Stirling to defeat is Mrs. Vanderbeck, and she always has been.